

NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK
RANGERS ASSOCIATION

February 1986

"STATE PARKS: FADING BEAUTY?"

You have been reading in past NEWSLETTERS of the battle CSPRA is waging to restore the staffing level of our Department to a safe, efficient and workable complement. In the January issue, the article reprinted from THE TRIBUNE, encapsulated some of CSPRA's efforts. At the special legislative meeting in December, then Vice President Rick Parmer, for President Jeff Price presented testimony. The following is a portion of Rick's testimony (edited for the purpose of the NEWSLETTER).

The California State Park Rangers Association consists of 550 Rangers, Managers, Administrators, Professional staff and State Park supporters. Our organization's sole purpose is to promote sound judgement and the highest possible service to the public by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

CSPRA recognizes the need for State Government to maintain a lean, efficient work force, but the Dept. of Parks and Recreation is beginning to look more like a skeleton crew.

Case in point: Anza Borrego State Park now attracts nearly one million visitors per year and its 600,000 acres comprise one-half of the total land in the park system. Yet there are only two journey-level maintenance persons to serve two developed campgrounds, 12 restroom facilities, a million dollar visitor center, 13 state residences, a District Office and two water systems. There is one workshop which must serve facilities as far away as an hour-and-a-half driving time. One Ranger patrols what averages out to be 60,000 acres. This past holiday weekend major new evidence of off-road vehicle damage was reported in sensitive desert plant communities the park was formed to protect.

At San Elijo State Beach in San Diego County, one of the busiest campgrounds and day use areas in the state, capital improvement funds have been needed for at least ten years to develop a new drainage system due ring Thanksgiving, 15 campsites were flooded enough to warrant closing-according to one Ranger. But since every campsite was reserved in advance, campers had no choice but to leave, or in some cases stay in vehicles completely surrounded by water.

Cultural resources are also affected. In the Santa Monica Mountains District, four cases of Native American artifact theft or vandalism are documented within the past two months. Sufficient funds are not available to provide adequate patrols or to inventory these Chumash Indian sites. At Topanga State Park there are an estimated eight to 10 significant trespasses including patios, a horse corral, and even a nursery. Since funds don't exist for a comprehensive boundary survey, the problems remain - in one case this has already lead to costly litigation be-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Parmer

I would like to thank the 197 members who voted to put their confidence in my ability to lead CSPRA through the next two years. For the remaining write-in contingent I urge you to let me know what priorities you wish to see CSPRA pursue. For all members and supporters please call me or any Board member with your thought or concerns.

GEC or Bust!

Mark March 14-16 on your calendar now! As you may know we are dedicating the conference to the memory of Jim Whitehead. Jim was one of that dedicated group of retired members who was always there year after year. Not because the site was a good vacation destination but because he lived the Theodore Roosevelt credo, "Every man [woman] owes some of his time to the upbringing of the profession to which he [she] belongs". An exciting program features Director of the National Park Service, William Penn Mott, and David Foreman, founder of Earth First! A conservation organization that advocates civil disobedience on environmental issues.

We are all Rangers in Spirit

The word, "ranger", carries the most positive public connotation of any job in the department. Whether we like it or not the fact will remain. Yet we know that a personnel clerk or maintenance worker serves just as crucial a role in delivering our service to the public. I think rangers should work to put back the benefits they reap from the image by recognizing the behind-the-scenes workers in their everyday contacts with the public. If we promote the ranger image to include all employees then perhaps we will begin to work more like the team we should be.

BOTTLE BILL MAKES RECORD PROGRESS! CSPRA donates \$400 towards passage

by John Mott

Last May for the first time in history the proposed California Bottle Bill passed the Assembly Natural Resource Committee. Previous bottle bills had always been killed in Committee by special interests. According to Bill Shoreman Executive Director of the Californians' Against Waste (CAW):

"They (beverage interests) were shocked when we gained

passage of the bill through the Committee -- for the first time, we had simply outmaneuvered them: We generated more citizen action, thousands more letters and calls and more broadbased powerful support".

AB 2020 is now on the Assembly floor where it needs 41 votes (a majority) to pass. As of 1/15/86

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tween the State and a local land-owner.

Farther north public safety is in question at the 12,700 acre San Luis Reservoir. Rangers at this popular boating area are advised not to attempt aquatic rescues without a trained back-up on shore. However shift coverage is such that there is often only one person on duty at certain times of the day. Says one Ranger, "There exist significant aquatic resource problems."

In the same District, there is a situation where the park acquired new land four years ago and has provided no money or staff to manage it. At the San Luis Island project chronic poaching, cattle trespasses, and illegal ground fires pose major problems in one of the last remaining native grasslands in California.

It is ironic that Californians have enthusiastically voted for recent State Park Bond Acts, but in many cases are still not able to use or enjoy the new parks they have purchased, largely because of staffing shortages that run from the initial planning stage right through to operations.

Director Briner's fall 1984 request for 362 new positions was well in line with the real need.

The future integrity of our State Park System depends on the cooperative action of legislators, Park Professionals, and an involved public to protect California's prized natural, cultural and historical resources. The 70 million annual visitors deserve the finest State Park System in the nation.

To help CSPRA document the staffing problems we call on members to contact their representative with information or specifics of staffing problems. The more definitive CSPRA can be the better our chances are at turning this around.

Editor's note:

The Save-the-Redwoods League recently sent a letter to Governor Deukmejian, encouraging him to increase the staffing of parks. In part the letter reads:

"...Unless your administration takes aggressive action and initiative to adequately staff our Parks with permanent, knowledgeable Rangers, I believe we will see our State Park System become second-rate and severely deteriorate in both service and quality. Californians have always voted very favorably for appropriations for Parks. By giving the 1984 Bond Act such an overwhelming plurality, this statement is again reinforced by voter confirmation. I believe you are totally justified in increasing the State Park Department budget in 1986, and thereafter, to better serve the public. ..."



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

By Gar Salzgeber

The Timber Harvest Plan for clear-cutting Sally Belle Grove of Sinkyone Wilderness Area was approved by California Department of Forestry. However Georgia Pacific gave environmental groups and the state legislature a reprieve until April 1986, to see if they can acquire the grove. Sally Belle Grove has 75 acres of old growth redwood, and an archeological site up to 7,000 years.

CSPRA agreed to donate \$100 to Californians Against Waste (CAW) in support of Assembly Bill 2020, the proposed Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act.

In November 1982 the "Bottle Bill" collected 44 percent of the votes even after opponents outspent proponents by a margin of 6-1.

CAW needs your help! For further information, or to send donations, write: Californians Against Waste, P.O. Box 289, Sacramento CA 95802.

CORRECTIONS:

The Dec. '85 NEWSLETTER incorrectly announced that Rick Parmer received 97 votes to confirm his election as CSPRA President.

Rick actually received 197.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by John Mott

The December NEWSLETTER article on CSPRA Honorary Membership contained an oversight...several honorary Members were accidentally not included.

For the record, as of 12/85 the California State Park Rangers Association is proud to have the following 25 outstanding individuals as Honorary Members:

John B. Dewitt - Harold H. Biswell

Harriet Allen

Edward Dolder

William Goodall

Phil Geiger

William Penn Mott, Jr.

Earl Hanson

Harriet Weaver

Claud Look

Josephine Reed

Everett Powell

Bertram Dunshee

Joseph Houghtelling

Howard King

Vern Whitaker

Joe Stone

Catherine Stone

Deceased Honorary Members are:

James Whitehead

Joseph Knowland

Percy French

Verna Dunshee

Newton Drury

Pearl Chase

Harry Blaisdell Sr.

Walt Disney

Ansel Adams

May we continue to strive for the high standards of the profession, thought, action and the dedication which they so graciously demonstrated. May we continue to benefit from their experience insights and professional advice.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Congressman Richard Lehman

As part of my Mono Basin NAS legislation, Congress set aside \$240,000 to study the water level of Mono Lake necessary to support current wildlife populations and the impact if L.A. continues to exercise its water rights at the lake.

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AB 2020 was only 16 votes short of passage. CSPRA's Environmental issues Committee has notified members in the 16 key Assembly districts asking for a "grassroots" show of support. By now the Assembly will have already voted. For an update call your local representative's office. Be sure to express your appreciation if your assemblymember voted yes.

The CSPRA Board of Directors enthusiastically greeted the progress of AB 2020 with a formal resolution and a \$300 donation to CAW. The donation was in addition to the \$100 we donated last year. Director Gar Salzgeber summed up the Board's feelings, "Deposit legislation is long overdue in California - lets get it passed once and for all!"

Since the mid 70's CSPRA has vigorously supported legislation and initiatives to place refundable deposits on beverage cans and bottles. The beverage industry has vigorously opposed such legislation. AB 2020 represents a reasonable compromise. Aluminum cans, unfortunately are exempt, however deposits are required on beer and wine bottles (including imports). Despite the can exemption author Burt Margolin (D Los Angeles) points out: "We still have a bill that will go a long way toward cleaning up litter in California."

CSPRA is in the process of developing a statewide phone tree to generate political support for AB 2020. If you would like to assist please send a note to John Mott. Each phone tree member may be asked to make 5-10 phone calls on behalf of the Bottle Bill.

For direct access to CAW, contact one of the CAW Regional Coordinators:

Region 1: Kate Krebs, 1380 9th St., Arcata CA 95521

Region 2: Amy Lethbridge, Bx 289 Sacramento CA 95802

Region 3: Helen Barrington, 870 Market St. #553, S.F. CA 94105 415-398-1386

Region 4: Tom Padia, 441 Park Ave. #1, San Jose CA 95110 408-292-4201

Region 5: Jim Knox, Bx 3895 Modesto CA 95352

Region 6: George Crane, 985 Palm San Luis Obispo 93401

Region 7: Tom Brady, 5159 La Roda Ave., L.A. CA 90041

Region 8: Coy Smith, 716 San Rafael Place, San Diego Ca 92109

CSPRA APPOINTMENTS 1/86:

Mike Whitehead to Vice President.

Denzil Verado to Installations committee chair.

Jeff Price to Ways and Means committee chair.

Gar Salzgeber still Environmental issues committee chair.

Al Salzgeber leaving the office of Historian

For those interested in being historian committee chair please contact President Farmer.



ASSOCIATION OF ADMIN. OFFICERS

A newly-formed organization of Department employees is the Association of Administrative Officers. The Association currently consists of Regional Administrative Technicians and RAO's within the Department. The goals and objectives are to represent, advance and promote the interest and standards of the profession of Administrative Officers to provide a medium of exchange of professional thought, to promote sound judgement high quality and economy in the planning, development, operation and administration of facilities and service offered the public by the Department of Parks and Recreation. There are five types of membership classes: Active, Active Retired, Supporting, Associate and Honorary. Dues are set as follows: Active members \$5.00 to 15.00 per month (depending on salary level); Active Retired, \$12.00 per year (\$2.00 per month); Supporting, \$100 minimum per year; Honorary no dues.

The Association was formed to address various issues with which the Administrative Officers were concerned. It's felt a more productive process could be utilized if an organization was formed and everyone worked together.

At a support weekend in March '84, the group identified problem areas and recommendations to alleviate those problems and presented this package to management. As a result of these recommendations several changes were made to cut down on the duplication of effort at District, Region and Sacramento levels and a formalized training program for Administrative personnel was conducted at Asilomar to name a few.

The Association continues to pursue a classification study for field officers to try and rectify discrepancies that exist. Inadequate staffing at various levels would be included. Lack of upward mobility classifications is yet another issue.

The Association of Administrative Officers would like to take this opportunity to solicit individuals who may be interested in joining. If you would like more information you may contact Brenda Elazier, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 204 Duncans Mills, California 95430; Sue Miles, Interim President, P.O. Box 798, Mendocino, California 95460; Linda Fletcher, Interm Vice President, P.O. Box 3104, Monterey California 93942. For those interested and who qualify to be active members, we are also looking for candidates for officers.

With thanks to Sue Miles for this submission - ed.

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR PARK WAS TOUGH...

An article from the Associated Press was titled: "Ranger fleeing rhinos is thrown from horse and devoured by lions."

A "game park guard" in Hluhluwe, South Africa was fleeing from charging white rhinos when his horse was frightened and reared, throwing him to the ground. He was attacked and "devoured" by a pride of lions.

Senior Rangers returned (too late) and killed a total of seven lions.

Our South Coast beaches don't look quite so bad in comparison - or do they?

HOSTING IN MALIBU

By Robert Lamarche and Jacques Langlois

Christmas Day, and here I sit in my bed writing this article. Robert, at the front of our GMC motorhome, is doing the same.

The two of us are Campground Hosts at Leo Carrillo State Beach. We are completing our second season here. When we first visited this place two years ago, on our way to the desert, little did we know we would be solicited to become Camp Hosts. During our short visit we developed a friendly relationship with two Rangers who insisted that we come back as volunteers.

Leo Carrillo, we were to find out, is active, intense, rowdy, sometimes mean, and occasionally plainly violent. As an example we both had to go to court last week as witnesses for the State of California in a trial for battery on Peace Officers - our Rangers. We won.

Leo Carrillo supplies us with many intense situations to deal with, most of them brought about by campers. Our park is a true suburban park, located close to one of the biggest and most active Metropolis in the world, and our campers come from the San Fernando Valley, Long Beach, Los Angeles and all the surrounding areas. We get a lot of inner city people, some of which have never seen wildlife or, for that matter, any expanse of wilderness in their life. A good percentage of these people have special personal recreation values and philosophies, of which, very few coincide with those of the Department.

Our summertime Camp Host duties usually keep us going from noon until 4 in the morning. Our work includes assisting visitors, giving information, doing safety patrols, teaming up with the Rangers, some first aid and a substantial amount of interpretation work.

Of all the things that keep us here, the strongest is the exceptionally close relationships we have developed with every one of the Rangers. Let me stress how important the relationships park personnel develop with their volunteers are for the success of the volunteer program. As volunteers, we don't get any salary. We spend our time and efforts working for free. Consideration, human warmth, care and understanding are the bulk of our reward. Take note, it might help your own program.

We work on many special projects. We have given up to 30 campfire programs so far. Most are on marine biology and on the martial art of Kung-Fu. Kung-Fu may sound awkward as a theme for a campfire program, but read on. Kung-Fu is a martial art that was developed from the observation of wild animals in their fighting and hunting habits; The eagle, the snake, the crane and others. Such a campfire program has proven to be highly entertaining because of all the action involved and

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also a good way to talk about animal life and to sensitize campers to the nature in the park. Not only can the visitor learn to love and respect wildlife, he can actually learn from observing animals and grow to be a better person.

Robert, as a professional designer and drafting artist, works on quite a few projects that involve his skills. Presently he is working with some of the Rangers on the design of a visitor center for the Santa Monica Mountains Natural History Association (likely to open sometime in 1986) on a brochure of Leo Carrillo State Beach, plus different maps of the parks and campgrounds of our district.

Another hint for you. If you have camp hosts you are pleased with and who have special skills and talents, offer them long term involvement and give them the opportunity to exercise their sense of initiative and creativity. Such a formula will bring astounding rewards to all involved.

In the West Sector of our District, we have two different parks, Leo Carrillo and Point Mugu. These two parks share a common volunteer program. This program has been elaborated by Ranger Bonnie Morse, under the supervision of Ranger Jeff Snider. Though quite new, this program already works beautifully. We have a good group of five Camp Hosts (9 Volunteers), and the outlines of the program leave room for personal initiative and for special projects. Due to exceptional personalities, Bonnie and Jeff are a great assistance and support to their Volunteers.

1985. Even though the two of us work in a unique park, even if we are blessed with good supervisors and fellow workers, even if we're part of a good program, 1985 has taken its toll on us.

We've had a lot of stress and tension, we had to go through times of uncertainty, major fire, and overwork. But the hardest blow was the rejection of our application to be hosts at our most beloved place on earth, Anza Borrego Desert State Park - one strike, one miss.

However, Leo Carrillo has canyons, mountains, boulders, rocky outcroppings, cliffs, arid expanses, beautiful vegetation and spectacular wildlife. Plus the awesome Pacific Ocean and miles of beach.

Malibu. Ain't that place ranking high up with Monaco and Casablanca as one of the most elegant resorts in the world? And there is so much interesting work to do - what else do we need?

Editor's note: Tired of the lifestyle, the authors gave up lucrative practices in Psychology, and designing, they left behind the money, the Rolls Royces, elegant hotels, and Gold Cards to wander California parks and to write. Now accomplished (and published) free lance writers, they spend their time hosting and writing in California State Parks. Look for their work in travel and nature magazines.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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NEWSLETTER

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CSPRA INFORMATION

Please send me more
information on the
benefits of CSPRA
membership.

name: _____

street: _____

city: _____ St: _____

zip: _____

clip and mail to Doug
Bryce, CSPRA P.O. Box
28366, Sacramento CA
95828

SALE ITEMS

PIG\$18.00

Decals-3"\$ 1.00

Decals-1.5"\$.75

Lapel Pin\$ 2.50

Tie Tac\$ 3.00

Patch\$ 3.00

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order from Doug Bryce
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento CA 95828



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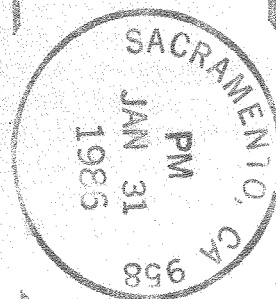
mail to:

JOHN D. MOTT
120-A CHRISTAL OAKS DR
SCOTTS VALLEY CA 95066



CSPRA BUDGET 1986-87

ESTIMATED INCOME		
DUES		\$22,000
ADVERTISING		-0-
GEC	3,000	
RESERVE FROM 85/86		4,000
SALES		130
TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME		\$29,130
EXPENDITURES		
EXECUTIVE MANAGER		\$2,400
STAFF SERVICES & SUPPORT		2,750
PUBLICATIONS		6,400
PRESIDENT		2,200
BOARD MEETINGS		2,500
BOARD OF DIRECTORS		1,000
CONTROLLER		700
G E C		3,000
SCHOLARSHIP (EDUC & TRNG)		2,000
SALES ITEMS		300
COMMITTEES		2,000
PLANNING & CONSERVATION LEAGUE	2,000	
RESERVE TO 1987/88		1,880
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$29,130



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CHANGE OF ADDRESS Contact Doug Bryce.

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MANAGING RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE

1990
Conference
March 14-17

Concord Holiday
Inn

featured speakers:

William Penn Mott
NPS Director
David Foreman
Founder
EARTH FIRST!

Topics & Trips Include:

Managing Wilderness
Restoring Wetlands
Big Horn Sheep Management
Trip to John Muir House
Tour Inside Black Diamond Mine



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\$24 members
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